Docket No.: 333772000800

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ramachandran KRISHNASWAMY et al.

Application No.: 10/772,434 Confirmation No.: 5995

Filed: February 6, 2004 Art Unit: 2128

For: METHOD AND STRUCTURE TO DEVELOP

A TEST PROGRAM FOR SEMICONDUCTOR

INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Examiner: S. Lo

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to further examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.